

WHAT YOU CAN DO

The Department of Pesticide Regulation and California Integrated Waste Management Board offer the following recommendations:

- Do not use clopyralid products on residential properties.
- Instruct your lawn-care professional not to use clopyralid products on your property.
- Do not compost materials that have been treated with a clopyralid product.
- Contact your local compost facility for appropriate uses and application rates for compost (locate facilities at www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Organics/SupplierList/)
- Ask your local compost facility whether it tests its compost for clopyralid residues.



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CLOPYRALID IN COMPOST

WHAT WE KNOW AND WHAT WE'RE LEARNING



- Benefits of composting
- Clopyralid facts
- Actions taken to prevent damage from Clopyralid
- What you can do
- Resources

COMPOST AND CLOPYRALID

BENEFITS OF COMPOSTING

Composting involves biological decomposition of organic materials to produce a stable, weed-free, pathogen-free, humus-like product. Using compost benefits the environment in a number of ways:

- Diverts yard trimmings, leaves, and other valuable organic materials from landfills, saving landfill space.
- Adds organic matter and nutrients to soil.
- Reduces the need for fertilizers.
- Increases biological activity in the soil.
- Prevents soil erosion.
- Reduces requirements for irrigation.
- Reduces the need for pesticides.
- Increases porosity of heavy clay soil.
- Encourages slow release of nitrogen.
- Improves drought tolerance.



CLOPYRALID FACTS

No incident of plant damage from clopyralid residues in compost has been reported in California.

Clopyralid is the active ingredient in several herbicide products used to control broadleaf weeds such as yellow starthistle, dandelion, and clover.

PRODUCTS

Clopyralid has been sold in California since 1997 under various trade names, including:

Transline*—rangeland, pasture, and rights-of-way.
Confront*—golf courses.
Stinger*—vegetables and grains.
Lontrel*—turf and ornamental plants.
Riverdale products—landscape and golf courses.
*Trademark of Dow AgroSciences LLC

CHARACTERISTICS OF CLOPYRALID

- Exhibits low toxicity to animals, including humans.
- Does not break down readily during the composting process.
- Shows up at low levels in some California composts.
- Does not affect most plants in low concentrations. However, some plants are unusually susceptible such as peas, potatoes, tomatoes, peppers, and sunflowers.

ACTIONS TAKEN TO PREVENT DAMAGE FROM CLOPYRALID

In early 2002 the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) and California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) established a workgroup to review concerns about potential clopyralid contamination of compost and take appropriate action. In March 2002 DPR initiated cancellation action against products used on residential lawns. As a result of this and other actions, Dow AgroSciences, the manufacturer of clopyralid, worked with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to change its labels so that clopyralid products are no longer allowed for residential use.

On April 2, 2003, DPR announced the following actions to protect commercial compost from potential contamination with clopyralid:

- DPR will restrict sales of clopyralid to lawn and turf professionals.
- Instruct those licensees to assure green waste stays on-site when clopyralid is used.
- Require dealers to provide written notice of the restrictions when they sell some clopyralid products.
- DPR will immediately begin drafting regulations to enforce the above restrictions, affecting about 15 clopyralid products used in parks, playing fields and cemeteries.

RESOURCES

DPR:
www.cdpr.ca.gov

CIWMB:
www.ciwmb.ca.gov/organics/events/issues/clopyralid/

Dow Agrosciences:
www.dowagro.com/clopyralid/